

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-09 SOE-02  
DODE-00 DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 SAS-02  
/130 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/NP/NX:KMCMANUS

APPROVED BY ACDA/NP:RLWILLIAMSON

OES:RDEMING

AF/W:RKOTT

-----019793 081741Z /73

P 081458Z SEP 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

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USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, MNUC, NI

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR FUEL FOR NIGERIA

REFS: (A) LAGOS 6146; (B) STATE 93306;  
(C) 77 STATE 254843; (D) STATE 149913

1. DEPARTMENT PUZZLED BY ALLEGATION IN REFTEL A THAT  
NIGERIANS DEFERRED POWER PROJECT PARTLY DUE TO US REFUSAL  
TO SUPPLY FUEL. NIGERIA, AS A PARTY TO THE NON-PROLIFERATION  
TREATY AND A PARTICIPANT IN INFCE, IS AN IMPORTANT  
THIRD WORLD COUNTRY IN RELATION TO US NON-PROLIFERATION  
OBJECTIVES AND CONTINUED COOPERATION WITH THE NIGERIANS  
IN THIS FIELD IS ESSENTIAL. ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD REGRET  
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ANY MISAPPREHENSIONS ON THEIR PART REGARDING COOPERATION  
WITH THE US ON PEACEFUL NUCLEAR ENERGY.

2. US BILATERAL COOPERATION OCCURS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK  
OF AN AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION. THERE IS NO US-NIGERIAN  
AGREEMENT BUT US HAS NO OBJECTION TO NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT  
WITH THE NIGERIANS. REF B CONTAINED TEXT OF SUCH AN

AGREEMENT AND EXPRESSED US WILLINGNESS TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS. UNDER THE TERMS OF A BILATERAL AGREEMENT, THE US WILL LICENSE FUEL FOR POWER PROGRAMS. THE PRESIDENT INDICATED THIS TO OBASANJO DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT LAST FALL. THUS, WE ARE AT A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND NIGERIAN STATEMENT THAT US REFUSED TO SUPPLY FUEL FOR POWER PROGRAM.

3. US HAS INDICATED TO NIGERIANS THAT WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO PROVIDE HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM (HEU) FOR A RESEARCH REACTOR. THIS IS PART OF US POLICY TO DECREASE STOCKS OF HEU ABROAD AND CONVERT RESEARCH REACTORS TO LOWER ENRICHMENTS IN LIGHT OF US CONCERNS OVER PROLIFERATION AND NUCLEAR TERRORISM DANGERS INHERENT IN USE OF HEU. HOWEVER, WE WOULD SUPPLY LEU ENRICHED URANIUM FOR A RESEARCH REACTOR AND SUCH MATERIAL IS MORE THAN ADEQUATE FOR THE RESEARCH AND TRAINING ASSOCIATED WITH A NEW NUCLEAR PROGRAM. MOREOVER, AS A NPT PARTY, NIGERIA WOULD QUALIFY FOR THE ASSISTANCE THE US ANNOUNCED AT SSOD IN USE OF LEU FOR RESEARCH REACTORS (SEE REF D FOR DETAILS).

4. US POLICY ON PROVIDING FUEL FOR POWER PROGRAMS CONTINUES TO BE THAT FORMULATED BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 7, 1977. "WE WILL INCREASE US PRODUCTION CAPACITY FOR ENRICHED URANIUM TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE AND TIMELY SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR FUELS FOR DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN NEEDS." THE RECENTLY ENACTED NUCLEAR NON-  
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PROLIFERATION ACT OF 1978 DECLARES THAT IT IS US POLICY TO PROVIDE A RELIABLE SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR FUEL TO COUNTRIES SUCH AS NIGERIA WHO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF EMBASSY COULD (A) ASSESS WHETHER OR NOT THE OPINIONS STATED IN REFTEL A ARE CURRENT THINKING IN THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT AND, IF SO, (B) SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON US NUCLEAR COOPERATION POLICY VIS-A-VIS FMG. THIS SHOULD NOT BE PERCEIVED AS ENCOURAGING NUCLEAR POWER ON FMG BUT WE DO FEEL IT IS NOT IN OUR INTEREST TO ALLOW THIS MISAPPREHENSION ABOUT US NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY TO STAND GIVEN THE CURRENT NORTH-SOUTH SPLIT ON ACCESS TO NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NUCLEAR FUELS, FUELS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 sep 1978  
**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** KCMANUS  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 LAGOS 6146, 78 STATE 93306, 77 STATE 254843, 78 STATE 149913  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NUCLEAR FUEL FOR NIGERIA  
**TAGS:** ENRG, TECH, MNUC, NI  
**To:** LAGOS USIAEA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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